

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 204

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 3606

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN CORRECTION 3606 VICE 2606)

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: VICE PRESID'S VISIT SUGGESTED Q'A AND A'S

1. IN RESPONSE TO TELECON REQUEST WE HAVE COME UP WITH A LIST OF QUESTIONS, SOME NASTY AND SOME NOT SO NASTY, WHICH IN VARYING DEGREES HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR BEING ASKED BY THE PRESS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OR HIS PARTY DURING THE MADRID PORTION OF THE TRIP. WE HAVE PROVIDED WITH EACH QUESTION OUT THOUGHTS ON THE RESPONSE TO IT.

2. Q'S AND A'S ON OUT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPANISH POLITICAL PROCESS.

Q. WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPANISH POLITICAL PROCESS.

SA: WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS OFFER THEIR PEOPLE BY FAR THE BEST HOPE FOR PROTECTING THEIR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR ATTAINING THEIR PERSONAL AND SOCIAL GOALS

THIS ADMINISTRATION AND THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY HAVE MADE QUITE CLEAR OUR SUPPORT FOR A GENUINE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN SPAIN AND WE ARE PLEASED AT THE PROGRESS THAT IT HAS BEEN MADE. WE HOPE THAT THE ELECTIONS
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WILL PRODUCE A PARLIAMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SPANISH OPINION SO THAT SPAIN CAN TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONS.

Q. HOW DO YOU SQUARE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATIONS'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS SUPPORT FOR THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT'S REFORM PROGRAM WITH THE CONTINUING INCARCERATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY

BASQYES, IN SPANISH PRISONS?

SA: SUPPORT FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IS A PERMANENT POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ABOUT SPECIFIC CASES. BUT I DO WANT TO EMPHASIZE AGAIN THAT WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARD BRINGING DEMOCRACY TO SPAIN AND TOWARD THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. I WOULD ADD THAT IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE KING'S AMNESTY AND PARDON MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RELEASED.

Q. WHY HAS THE UNITED STATES GONE OVERBOARD IN PROMOTING PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ IN THE ELECTIONS? ISN'T THIS THE SAME OLD POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES INTERVENING IN DOMESTIC POLICS?

SA: WE HAVE FULLY INDICATED OUR SUPPORT AND SATISFACTION AT THE PROGRESS SPAIN HAS MADE TOWARD DEMOCRACY? BUT WE ARE NOT IN ELECTORAL SUPPORT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL LEADER.

WE WELL KNOW THAT IN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM THERE ARE NO PERMANENT HOLDERS OF POLITICAL OFFICE. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO CONDUCT A BROAD DIALOGUE WITH SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL SECTORS ACROSS THE SPECTRUM AND HOPE TO DEEPEN THAT DIALOGUE ON THE ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE SPANISH PEOPLE ALONE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.

Q. IF THAT IS THE CASE, WHY DOES THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE SO MUCH CONTACT WITH SUAREZ AND NONE WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS? WHY DON'T YOU, FOR INSTANCE AT LEAST SHAKE THE HAND OF SOME OF THE OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS LIKE GONZALEZ OR FRAGA ON THIS TRIP?

SA: UNFORTUNATELY, THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS TRIP DID NOT PERMIT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DONE.

1. DID THE US GOVERNMENT TELL THE SPANISH TO LEGALIZE THE COMMUNIST PARTY?

SA: NO, WE DIDN'T TELL THEM TO LEGALIZE IT AND WE DIDN'T TELL THEM NOT TO LEGALIZE IT. IT WASN'T OUR BUSINESS.

Q. NOW THAT THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY IS LEGAL. DOES THE US GOVERNMENT HAVE OR PLAN TO HAVE CONTACT WITH IT?

SA: WELL, WE DO TALK WITH COMMUNIST PARTY FIGURES FROM TIME TO TIME IN SOME COUNTRIES WHERE THEY ARE A SIGNIFICANT FORCE, WHICH IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WON'T KNOW HERE UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS BUT IN PRINCIPLE THERE IS NO OBJECTION. STABLER

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 205

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 3606

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN CORRECTION 3606 VICE 2606)

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESID'S VISIT SUGGESTED Q'A AND A'S

3. NATO AND THE U S SPANISH MILITARY RELATIONSHIP.

Q. WHY IS THE US BACKTRACKING ON SPANISH ENTRY INTO
NATO?

SA: THE US HAS LONG SUPPORTED SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO
AND CONTUNUES TO DO SO. BUT WE ALSO RECONGNIZE THAT
WHETHER OR NOT SPAIN ENTERS NATO WILL NE A MATTER FOR
EVENTUAL DECISION BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE
AND THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE.

Q. BUT WHAT IS THE SELF INTEREST OF SPAIN IN ENTERING
NATO?

SA: THAT IS FOR SPAIN TO DETERMINE.

Q. DOES THE US GENUINELY SUPPORT SPANISH ENTRY INTO
THE COMMON MARKET? WOULDN'T IT REALLY PREFER A CONTINUATION
OF THE STATUS QUO?

SA/ THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT
IT GENUINELY SUPPORTS EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, AND IT SHOULD
BE OBVIOUS THAT WE SUPPORT SPAIN'S TAKING HER NATURAL
PLACE IN EUROPE AND HOPE THAT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY
ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT.

Q. IS THERE ANY SUBSTANCE TO THE RUMOR THAT THE UNITED
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STATES IS CONSIDERING CLOSING DOWN ITS BASES IN SPAIN?

SA: NO. I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THESE ARE SPANISH BASES, NOT AMERICAN BASES, AND THAT WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE SPANISH FOR HAVING PROVIDED US WITH THE FACILITIES THAT WE ENJOY HERE.

Q: ARE YOU GOING TO ASK FOR BASES IN THE CANARIES?

SA: NO

4. FOREIGN RELATIONS:

Q. DOESN'T IT BOTHER THE US AT ALL THAT SPAIN HAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH SO MANY COMMUNISTS COUNTRIES, AND NOW REPORTEDLY WILL DO SO WITH KAMPUCHEA. AND VIETNAM?

SA: NO, NOT AT ALL

Q. SPAIN STILL HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HAVE YOU BEEN, OR WILL YOU BE, URGING SPAIN TO ESTABLISH SUCH TIES.

SA: WE HOPE THAT SPAIN AND ISRAEL WILL COME TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BUT I SHOULD ADD THAT THIS IS A MATTER BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND NOT ONE FOR US TO DECIDE.

5. ECONOMICS AND ENERGY;

Q. DOES THE US PLAN " MARSHALL PLAN " FOR SPAIN?

SA: WE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN SPAIN TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF WHAT ECONOMIC POLICIES IT SHOULD FOLLOW. I UNDERSTAND SPAIN HAS ACCESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL BANKING COMMUNITY AND TO THE IMF FOR ADDITIONAL LOANS SHOULD THEY BECOME NECESSARY.

Q. WHY DOES THE US SEEK TO RESTRICT IMPORTS OF SPANISH SHOES?

SA: THE US IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE TRADE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO OUR DOMESTIC INDUSTRY AND WORKERS TO TRY TO PREVENT SERIOUS DISRUPTION CAUSED BY IMPORTS. WE ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THESE TWO OBJECTIVES.
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WHY DOES THE US IMPOSE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON SPANISH PRODUCTS?

SA: A US LAW GOING BACK TO THE LAST CENTURY OBLIGES THE US GOVERNMENT TO COUNTERVAIL OR OFFSET, SUBSIDIES BY OTHER GOVERNMENT OF THEIR EXPORTS TO THE US. THIS INVOLVED MANY OTHER COUNTRIES BESIDES SPAIN. AND IN THE APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL FORUMS WE ARE WORKING AND WILL KEEP WORKING FOR LIBERALIZED WORLD TRADE.

Q. WHAT EFFECT WILL THE NEW US POLICY HAVE ON SPAIN?

SA: WE HAVE SOUGHT IN OUR NEW POLICY IS WORLDWIDE IN EUROPE IN SCOPE TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE NON-PROLIFERATION SAFEGUARDS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL

COOPERATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR
PEACEFUL PURPOSES. I THINK THAT OUR NEW POLICY ACCOMMODATES
OF THESE OBJECTIVES.

6. RADIO LIBERTY:

Q. WHAT IS THE US POSTURE CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION
OF RADIO LIBERTY TRANSMISSIONS FROM SPAIN?

SA: WE CONSIDER RADIO LIBERTY'S BROADCASTS FROM
SPAIN TO THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO
BROADCASTS BY RADIO FREE EUROPE FROM PORTUGAL AND FROM
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO EASTERN EUROPE TO
BE A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT MEANS OF PROVIDING OBJECTIVE
NEWS. AND SUCH BROADCASTS ARE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT
WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

Q. HASN'T THE US SPAIN AGREEMENT ON RADIO LIBERTY
RUN OUT?

SA: YES, WE RECENTLY CONCLUDED WITH THE PORTUGUESE
GOVERNMENT A LONG TERM AGREEMENT FOR THE EXTENSION OF
RADIO FREE EUROPE'S ACTIVITIES IN THAT COUNTRY, AND
WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE TALKS HERE WHENEVER THE
SPANISH GOVERNMENT THINKS IT APPROPRIATE.

Q. HOW CAN YOU CALL RADIO LIBERTY, A CIA SPY ACTIVITY,
CONSISTENT WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT?

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SA: FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, RADIO LIBERTY'S ACTIVITIES
HAVE BEEN FULLY PUBLIC AND OPEN. THEY ARE FUNDED
BY CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION AND MANAGED BY A PRESIDENTIALLY
APPOINTED BIPARTISAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS. AND THE
HELSINKI ACT CALLS FOR FACILITATING THE FREE AND
WIDER DISEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND IT ALSO SPECIFIC
ALLY EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE PROCESS OF EXPANSION
OF RADIO BROADCAST INFORMATION WILL CONTINUE. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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